

**BRIAN BABIN, D.D.S.**  
36TH DISTRICT, TEXAS  
[BABIN.HOUSE.GOV](http://BABIN.HOUSE.GOV)

COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE,  
AND TECHNOLOGY  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON SPACE AND AERONAUTICS  
REPUBLICAN LEADER

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION  
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PRO-LIFE CAUCUS

MILITARY VETS CAUCUS

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-4336**

February 26, 2020

2236 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
(202) 225-1555

203 IVY AVENUE, SUITE 600  
DEER PARK, TX 77536  
(832) 780-0966

812 N. 16TH ST.  
ORANGE, TX 77630  
(409) 883-8075

100 W. BLUFF DRIVE  
WOODVILLE, TX 75979  
(409) 331-8066

2004 N. CLEVELAND ST.  
DAYTON, TX 77535  
(832) 780-0966

Ambassador Cui Tiankai  
Embassy of the People's Republic of China in the United States of America  
3505 International Place, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20008 U.S.A.

Dear Ambassador Cui:

I write to you today to express my deep concern at the World Health Organization's (WHO) and the People's Republic of China's (PRC) continued marginalization of Taiwan during the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. The ongoing exclusion of Taiwan from the WHO during this epidemic has put people in Taiwan, the PRC, and around the world at greater risk while harming both the integrity of the WHO and the security of member states.

In the time since the WHO recognized the threat of COVID-19, the virus has spread quickly and infected tens of thousands in China and around the world, with a death toll exceeding and even doubling that of the SARS and MERS epidemics. While much of the loss of life has been contained to the Chinese mainland, one of the few lives lost abroad was that of a Taiwanese man, and it is more than reasonable to assume this could have been prevented had Taiwan not been excluded from the WHO.

Hazardous and unpredictable communicable diseases such as COVID-19 require global unity and coordination. Neither Taiwan nor the international community is served by restricting Taiwan's access to timely information and important resources that protect public health. Leaving any one region out of the global health network creates a gap that undermines global public health and safety, and I believe Taiwan's exclusion thus far has been an egregious handicap to the WHO and its member states' health security. Furthermore, considering Taiwan's proximity to the virus's origin, both its inclusion in the WHO and attendance at World Health Assembly (WHA) meetings are vital to the promotion of multilateral cooperation in the region.

The People's Republic of China has repeatedly and persistently positioned both itself and WHO members against Taiwanese participation—or even observation—in the WHO to the detriment of the global effort to prevent further spread of this disease. This antagonistic behavior has continued long enough, and Taiwan must be allowed to participate in order to promote a unified and meaningful global health forum. Additionally, in response to COVID-19, the PRC is in no position to influence the WHO's activity after attempting to suppress details of the spread of the virus and arresting individuals who attempted to alert the public to the viral threat in January. China has not exhibited any of the values which drive the WHO, and as this threat continues to grow in the region, we must allow Taiwan to share in the WHO members' resources and join the concerted effort to contain and eradicate this threat.

In the best interest of all member states' internal health and security, I request you work to end your government's manipulation of WHO inclusion, so Taiwan may participate in person in all WHO meetings, mechanisms and activities, including the upcoming 73<sup>rd</sup> World Health Assembly in Geneva,

May 17<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup>, 2020. Pandemics such as COVID-19 know no borders, and only by working alongside all our global partners may we eliminate this threat and ensure the integrity of global public health.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter. I look forward to your timely response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Brian Babin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Brian" and last name "Babin" clearly distinguishable.

Brian Babin, D.D.S.  
Member of Congress